

CLAIMS

1. A system for managing rechargeable vouchers of access to a service, wherein the service payment operation is separate from the voucher charging or recharging operation, this last operation being performed upon presentation of the voucher to a service access validation station (20).

5       2. The system of claim 1, wherein payment information corresponding to determined card numbers are stored at the level of a central station (10) which periodically transmits a portion at least of this information to at least some selected ones of

10      the validation stations.

15      3. The system of claim 1, wherein upon payment, the voucher user provides an indication about the first validation station(s) to which he is likely to go.

20      4. The system of claim 1, applicable to periodic recharge vouchers, wherein, at the end of each period, each voucher presented to a validator is automatically recharged, the voucher validity being then checked at the level of a central station by comparison between the list of recharged vouchers and a list of vouchers for which the recharge has been paid for, a list being then made of the vouchers for which the recharge has been performed and not paid for, this last list being periodically transmitted to some or to all validators, to enable them to totally or partially inhibit the vouchers belonging to this last list.

25      5. The system of claim 1, wherein, for charging or recharging a voucher, the system automatically determines according to statistic criteria certain validation stations to which said voucher is likely to be presented.

30      6. A validator of the access to a service by a rechargeable voucher, including means for:

- reading the voucher number,
- recharging the voucher, and
- storing a list of vouchers, the validation of which is authorized and/or forbidden.